

NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY
TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN
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11-20, January 2005 Volume 15 No. 2

Date of issue January 24, 2005

SUMMARY

During the first dekad of January 2005, Bega's dry weather dominated over much of the country. This situation favored the on going post harvest activities over Meher growing areas of the country as well as southern Oromiya and southeastern and western portions of SNNPR. Regarding air temperature, the highlands of Amhara (Bahir Dar, Combolcha, Amba Mariam, Bati, Cheffa, Dangila, Debre Birhan, Enewary, Mehal Meda, Wegel Tena and Mota), Oromiya (Debre Zeit, Jimma, Robe, Alamaya, Begi, Fitcha, Kibre Mengist, Kulumsa and Meisso), some areas of northern SNNPR (Hossaina), Tigray (Adigrat and Mychew) and northern Somali (Jijiga) experienced extreme air temperature below 5⁰C for two to ten consecutive days. Particularly, Alemaya, Debre Berihan, Debre Zeit, Mehal Meda, Wegel Tena and Jijiga recorded extreme air temperature below 0⁰C as low as -7.5, -5.0, -2.5, -1.2, -0.5, -0.3 ⁰C for two to seven consecutive days, respectively. This situation resulted in crops damage over eastern Gojam (Mota) and western Hararghe (Kombolcha). It may also affect the quality of short cycle crops like chick peas and lentil. In addition to this, it negatively affected the normal growth and development of perennial plants over the aforementioned areas.

During the second dekad of January 2005, most parts of western and central Oromiya, eastern, southern and parts of central Amhara, parts of western and southern Afar, most parts of SNNPR, southern parts of South Tigray and southeastern Tip of Benishangul-Gumuz experienced normal to above normal rainfall while the rest of the country received below to much below normal rainfall. Some stations like Assela, Addis Ababa, Abomsa, Awassa, Woliso, Fitcha and Nazareth received 38.1, 28.3, 27.8, 26.9, 26, 22.3 and 21.8 mm of rainfall in one rainy day, respectively. The observed occasional falls observed in some areas of central Ethiopia like Woliso had negative impact on post harvest activities. It could also spoil the harvested crops particularly in areas where there is no proper storage facility. On the other hand, the observed normal to above rainfall over eastern Amhara and parts of South Tigray could favor early Belg season's agricultural activities. Besides, the wet weather condition eased the stress condition of horticultural and perennial crops due to frost over central highlands. However, some areas like Debre Birhan, Wegel Tena and Dangla exhibited extreme minimum temperature below 5⁰C for one to three consecutive days.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)

Bati, Mehal Meda, Kulumsa, Awasa, Bui, Addis Ababa Bole and Woliso received 34.8, 38.7, 38.7, 40.7, 41.6, 46.5 and 47 mm of dekadal rainfall, respectively during the dekad under review.

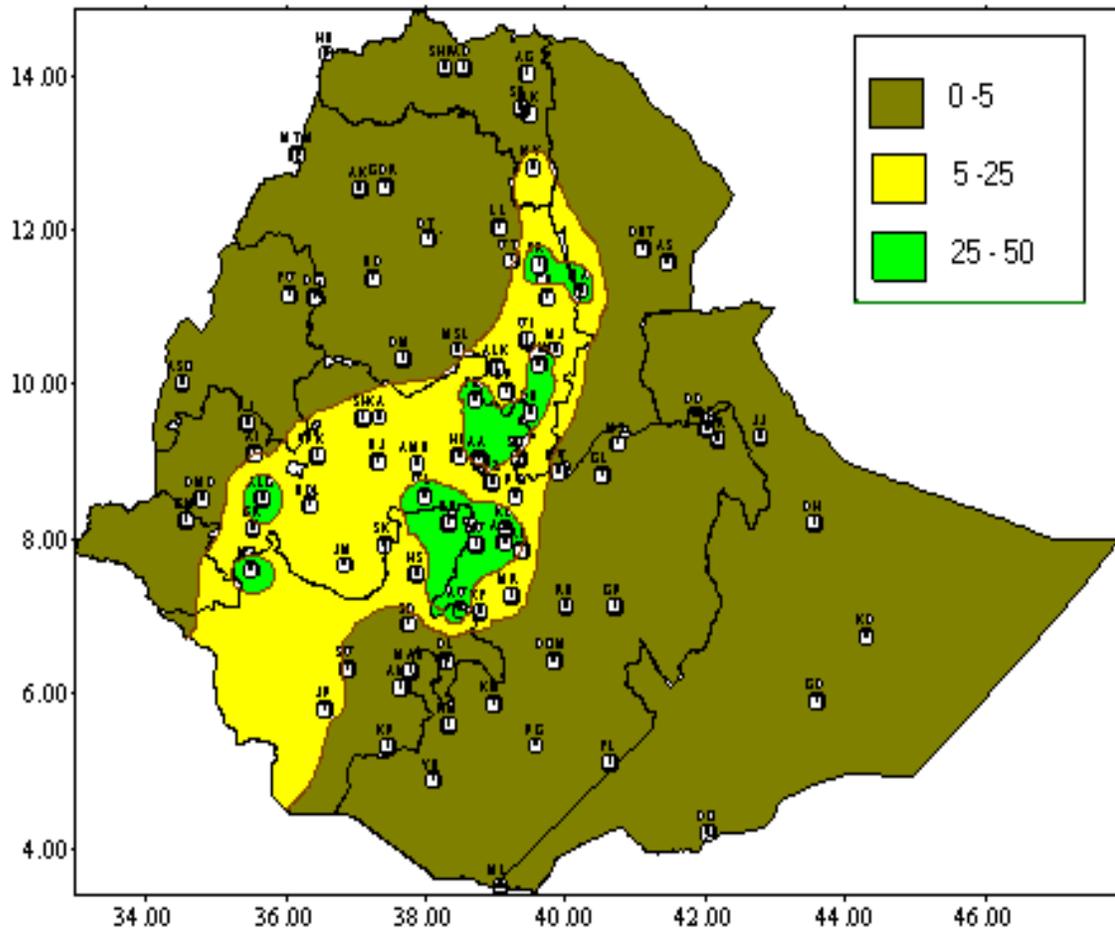


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11-20, January 2005)

1.1 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Most parts of western and central Oromiya, eastern, southern and parts of central Amhara, parts of western and southern Afar, most parts of SNNPR, southern parts of South Tigray and southeastern Tip of Benishangul-Gumuz experienced normal to above normal rainfall while the rest of the country received below to much below normal rainfall.

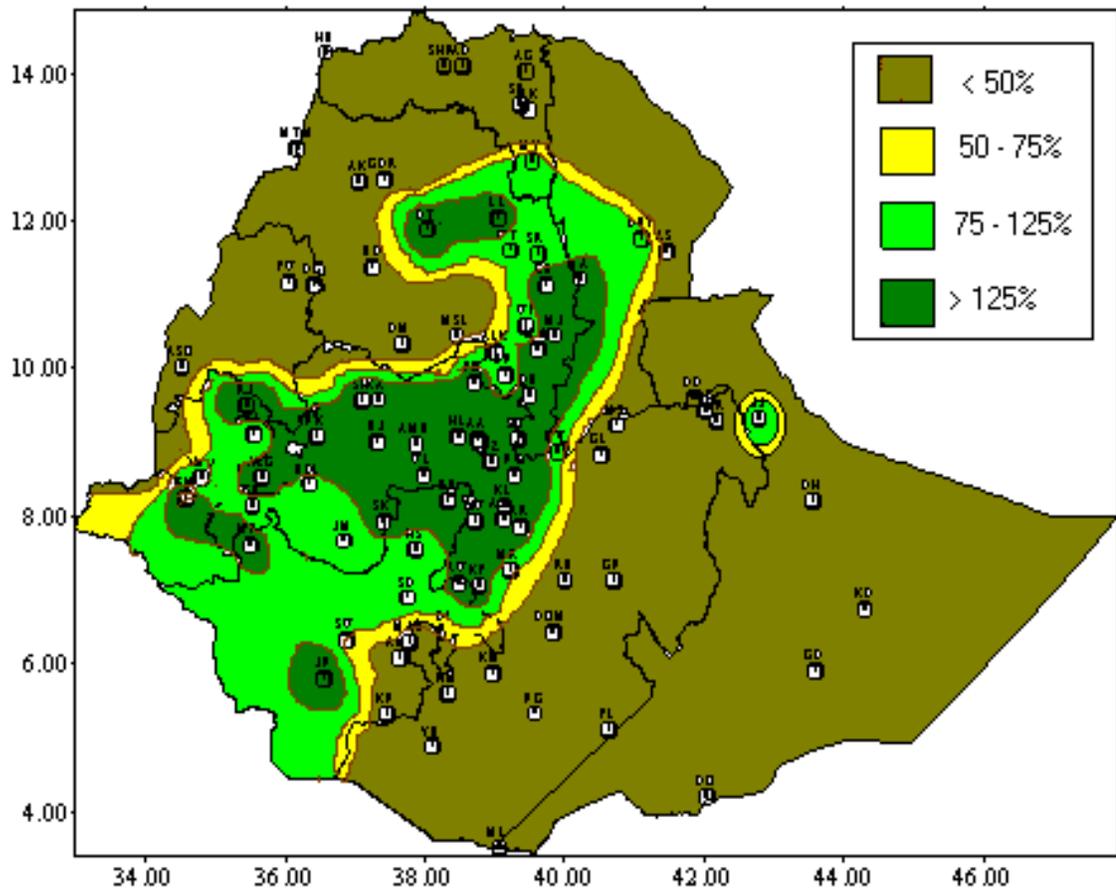


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (11-20, January 2005)

Explanatory notes for the legend:
 <50 -- Much below normal
 50—75% -- below normal
 75—125% --- Normal
 > 125% ---- Above normal

1.2 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Debre Birhan, Wegel Tena and Dangla exhibited extreme minimum temperature below 5°C for one to three consecutive days

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD DEKAD OF JANUARY 2005

In the coming dekad, some places of eastern Tigray, eastern and southern Amhara, as well as the adjoining areas of Afar regions and Gambela will have little rain showers. On the other hand, dry and sunny weather condition will be dominant over most parts of Tigray and Amhara, Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambela, southern parts of SNNPR as well as Oromiya and Somali. In association with this, a relative fall in the early morning and nighttime temperature is expected in the aforementioned areas.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The observed occasional falls observed in some areas of central Ethiopia like Woliso had negative impact on post harvest activities. It could also spoil the harvested crops particularly in areas where there is no proper storage facility. On the other hand, the observed normal to above rainfall over eastern Amhara and parts of South Tigray could favor early Belg season's agricultural activities. Besides, the wet weather condition eased the stress condition of horticultural and perennial crops due to frost over central highlands. However, some areas like Debre Birhan, Wegel Tena and Dangla exhibited extreme minimum temperature below 5°C for one to three consecutive days.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DAKAD

Relatively dry weather is anticipated in the coming ten days as compared to that of the previous dekad. Thus, farmers are advised to exploit the expected conducive weather situation to perform their post harvest activities such as harvesting, collecting harvested crops in the field, threshing and storing harvested crops to the barn on time in order to avoid post harvest losses. Besides, crops that are ready to harvest found in localized areas should be harvest as soon as possible. On the other hand, the anticipated isolated rains would have positive contribution for the early Belg season's agricultural activities over eastern and southern Amhara.